GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1160
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008
CORRUPTION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of bribe being paid by Below Poverty Line (BPL) people in connection with the Rural Development Schemes have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year;

(c) whether any study has been done by the Government/NGOs on the above subject;

(d) if so, the findings of the study; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) & (b): Two complaints regarding bribes being paid in connection with the Rural Development Schemes have come to the notice of the Ministry of Rural Development during the last two years and the current year. Details of the complaints received are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the complainant	Gist of the complaint
1.	Complaint dated 02/01/06 made by Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Member of Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Sheohar, Bihar State	He alleged that there was rampant corruption in selection of beneficiaries for IAY in Sheohar District of Bihar
2.	Complaints received from the villagers of Jalalpur Gangti of Vaishali district, Bihar in June, 2008	They alleged that Mukhia of the village Panchayat had taken a bribe of Rs.5000/- from each beneficiary

(c) & (d): Transparency International India has issued a report titled `TII -CMS Corruption Study 2007 with focus on BPL households`. In the report, it has been mentioned that rural BPL households paid bribe to avail benefits of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). However, no specific details of the rural BPL households who paid bribe to avail benefits of NREGS have been provided in the report.

(e): If any irregularity in the implementation of the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development is brought to the notice of the Ministry, the matter is immediately taken up with the State Government/UT concerned. If required, National Level Monitors (NLMs) on the panel of the Ministry are asked to investigate the complaints.